

**PUBLISHED MONTHLY.**

**JANUARY, 1925.**

# **The Library Assistant**

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF  
**ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS**

**VOL. XVIII.**

**EDITED BY HARRY CROSS, F.L.A.**  
(Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon).

**No. 1.**

## **CHIVERS' LIBRARY BINDINGS AND BOOK SUPPLY.**

We have arranged a special Niger Leather book-binding for books, which will last the life of the paper, however long or hard may be its service.

We use the best materials and make a shapely book. We claim that use and time will show ours to be a more durable, and therefore more economical binding than any other, and it compares favourably in price.

The leather-bound book at the slightly increased cost for binding will serve the purpose of the Library better than any other method.

For books of undetermined popularity, resewing, reinforcing, and replacing in the publishers' covers (where the covers are of good enough cloth) is a cheaper method. This will give an average issue of 60 loans compared to an average 15 in publishers' covers used as issued.

This method of reinforcing will in many cases last out the life of the book. If presently the cloth cover breaks, the sewing will be still intact, for which allowance will be made from the binding price.

Quotations will be given for lists of books submitted, or further particulars sent on receipt of a postcard.

## **CEDRIC CHIVERS, Ltd.**

**Bookbinders & Booksellers, PORTWAY, BATH.**

*Annual Subscription, including postage to any address, either at home or abroad, 8s.*

Entered at Stationers' Hall and at New York Post Office as Second Class Matter.

**No. 314**

# Library Books & Binding

For PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

## REPLACEMENT CATALOGUE.

Fiction and Juvenile.

Over 9,000 Titles.

From 9d. to 1/3 per vol. saved by ordering from our Catalogue.

All Books are supplied in Niger Morocco Bindings (guaranteed free from Acid).

## SPECIAL LINE.

Books supplied Resewn and Reinforced in Publisher's Covers.

Sample volume and prices for this style per return post.

Orders for Re-binding or Replacements receive prompt attention. Carriage Paid.

**B. RILEY & CO., LTD.**

LIBRARY BOOKBINDERS,

Fox Street, Huddersfield, England.

FLEXIBILITY GUARANTEED

Every  
Fold  
Guarded

**WALTER  
NEWBURY**  
— LIMITED —

Acid  
Free  
Leathers

**LONDON'S LEADING  
LIBRARY BINDERS**

Telephone  
East Ham  
526

Plashet Lane,  
**EAST HAM, E.6**

Established  
Half a  
Century

Motor Collection and  
Delivery Service

Trade Union



N.U. Binders

Specialists in Public  
Library Contracts

**TENDER FORMS AND ENQUIRIES INVITED**





# The Library Assistant:

*The Official Journal of the Association of Assistant Librarians.*

No. 314.

JANUARY, 1925.

Published Monthly

## PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

|   |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Announcements and Editorials                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| A Knowledge of Books. By G. F. Vale, F.L.A.               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9  |
| The Junior Assistant. By J. V. Summerfield                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Librarianship as a Career for Women. By Miss W. M. Thorne | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| The Divisions   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| Appointments  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EDITORIALS.

**The Next Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, 14th January, 1925, at 7.30 p.m. in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Tottenham, N.** Mr. F. P. Sinclair, St. Pancras Public Library, will read a paper entitled "In Defence of the Novel." Dr. A. G. Newell, D.P.H., J.P., Chairman of the Tottenham Council has kindly promised to preside. Members and friends are cordially invited to visit the Library and Museum *before* the meeting and then to proceed to the Town Hall. Light refreshments will be provided from 7-7.30 p.m.

The **Junior Section** will hold their meeting at 6.30 p.m. in the Town Hall, when Mr. S. E. Overal (Walthamstow) will read a paper on "The Removal of the Preliminary Test and its possible effect."

As this is the first visit of the Association to Tottenham, it is hoped that as many as possible will take the opportunity of visiting the Central Library which is situated in the High Road, about three minutes' walk from the Town Hall. The Library building was erected in 1895 and was considerably altered and extended in 1907. The open-access system was introduced in the Lending Department in 1922. The building also contains a Museum which has just been enriched by a number of interesting specimens from the Wembley Exhibition (West Indies Section).

The Library may be reached by train from Liverpool Street (L.&N.E.R.) to Bruce Grove (five minutes' walk from Library), or by Tube to Finsbury Park and thence by Bus No. 39, or Tram Nos. 27, 59, 79. Bus services Nos. 69, 69B, 76, and Tram service No. 49 also pass both Town Hall and Library (alight at Tottenham High Cross).

**March Meeting.**—The meeting will be held at Barking Public Library, when Captain R. Wright, M.C., F.L.A., County Librarian, Middlesex, will open a discussion on "Co-operation."

**The First Social Event** of the season will be a dance at the Cripplegate Institution, Golden Lane, E.C., on Wednesday, 25th February, 1925. As the result of this dance is to determine the policy of the Council regarding the Social Activities all members interested are urged to support the event. Tickets may be obtained from the following, price 2/6 inclusive.

Mr. Cooper, Battersea.

Mr. Cross, Croydon.

Mr. Jones, Stepney.

Mr. Parker, Hackney.

Mr. Muskett, Bethnal Green.

Miss Rees, Fulham.

Mr. Wright, Wandsworth.

**Library Association Certificates.**—We are frequently receiving requests for information as to the number and particulars of library authorities who pay the members of their staff an additional remuneration for possession of the certificates of the Library Association. Although we are always able to help our enquirers in a limited way we are very anxious to secure as far as possible a complete list of all cases where the Library Association certificates receive financial recognition. We earnestly appeal to our readers therefore to send to the Hon. Secretary, Public Library, Bancroft Road, Mile End, E.1., any information they possess in the matter. The results will be carefully classified and scheduled so that they can be available for all future use.

**The New Year.**—We take this opportunity of wishing our members a bright and prosperous New Year both personally and professionally.

**The Next Meeting** of the Council will be held at the National Library for the Blind on Wednesday, January 7th, at 7 p.m.

**The Work of the Council.**—The December meeting of the Council was held prior to the monthly meeting in the Rotherhithe Library when, apart from the request of the Publications Committee for an enlarged edition of the journal (which was agreed to), very little business of general interest was transacted.

**The December Meeting.**—In spite of it being examination week and the fact that London was enshrouded in a special fog, over thirty attended at the Rotherhithe Library on the 10th, and were rewarded for their pains by an exceedingly interesting and provocative paper by Mr. G. F. Vale on "Knowledge of Books." As he dealt chiefly with the subject as it should affect the younger assistants a very lively discussion ensued.

Prior to the meeting light refreshments were served through the kindness of an old friend of the Association, Mr. J. D. Stewart, Bermondsey's Borough Librarian, and the members present took the advantage of inspecting a building in which the

indicator was on its death-bed and where a modern and well-equipped lending library was almost ready for business. At the conclusion of the paper the reader was accorded a hearty vote of thanks on the motion of Mr. R. F. Bullen, while a similar vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Stewart and his Committee for their courtesy and hospitality on the motion of Miss G. Rees. This was acknowledged by the Chairman of the Public Libraries Committee in a few well-chosen words which included a graceful reference to Mr. Stewart's work.

**Appointments.**—All assistants are requested to send to the Honorary Editor for publication, particulars of appointments and changes affecting them.

**The Distribution of the Journal** is in the hands of Mr. F. T. Bussey, Central Library, Mare Street, Hackney, London, E.8, to whom all communications concerning distribution should be sent. Such communications, when addressed to the Honorary Editor, have to be forwarded to Mr. Bussey, and there is obviously a delay in replying in consequence.

**Publication of the Journal.**—We go to Press on the 20th of the month. All matter for inclusion in the next number should be in our hands by the 18th.

**Birmingham.**—The new Technical Library and the reorganised Central Lending Library were formally opened by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham on December 1st.

The Central Lending Library has now been completely converted to open access and a new and much larger Children's Department added. The Lord Mayor said that "For some years, particularly during the war period, normal development had not taken place in the libraries, and to-day everybody in civic life was animated by a desire to pull up those arrears as speedily as possible, for the simple reason that the activities of the libraries could be reflected in a thousand different ways. He particularly desired to emphasise that those activities could be reflected in the mentality of the citizens and in their every-day life, and could in no small measure be one of the factors for creating that full sense of citizenship that all wanted to see developed. So few of their fellow-citizens seemed to appreciate at their full value the services which the municipality rendered to them. They desired to inculcate into the minds of citizens, and especially of the younger section, the desire to take advantage of that which they already had at their disposal, whilst "gingering up" those in public life in an endeavour to get even more. It was important that the youth of the city should take the utmost advantage of the existing facilities in order that they might obtain information and vocational instruction which they would find extremely useful in after life." *B'ham Post.*

**Jewish National Library.**—"The Jewish National Library, which also includes the Library of the Hebrew University, has published a return of books existing on its shelves at the beginning of 5,685. Although we have heard before of the rapid growth of the library during the past several years, the numbers now published indicate an almost unheard of progress. At the beginning of October the Library had 67,519 books or 82,478 volumes on its shelves. The various sections of the Library embrace almost all sciences, art and literature in many languages.

It will be recollected that the inauguration by Dr. Chaim Weimann took place of the Arabic section of the Library bequeathed by Professor Goldzieher. This section will be of considerable assistance to Arabic scholars in research and in literary work. Likewise, the several thousand volumes donated by the French Government have proved a boon to French readers. It is felt by every scholar visiting the Library that its benefits extend beyond the limits of the Jewish public. It has been the custom of the officers of the Library to give every assistance in their power to all those who wish to make use of its books. We hear that the authorities of the Library expect to obtain many more volumes during the current year, which will add to its educative capacity."—*Palestine Weekly*.

**University College, School of Librarianship.**—The next Summer School will, we understand, be held in Paris probably at the end of August and the beginning of September next year. It will be run in conjunction with the American Library Association, and the centre for lectures, etc., will be the American Library in the Rue de l'Elysée. As in former years hostel accommodation will be found for men and women as far as it is available. There are to be the usual visits to libraries, art galleries, museums, etc., and it is hoped to arrange a course of lectures on the Recent French Novel.

The report of the Summer School at Brussels in July last, shows that an extremely interesting professional and social programme was carried out. Some 43 students participated in this experiment of a Summer School abroad, the success of which will do much towards popularising the next School in Paris.

**School of Librarianship Exhibition.**—Fifteen Entrance Scholarships and Exhibitions are available for award to Students entering University College, London, in October, 1925.

One of them is tenable in the School of Librarianship.

The value of this Exhibition is £40 a year for two years, but this may be increased by the grant of a supplementary Bursary if the circumstances of the Exhibitioner make such a grant necessary.



Information with regard to all the Entrance Scholarships and Exhibitions may be obtained on application to the Secretary of the College.

**Ministry of Health.**—At last there is a sign of the lifting of the clouds that have settled on library extension schemes. Ilford, we note, has been notified that the embargo on the town hall and library extension has been raised.

**Proposed Formation of an Eastern Counties Division.**—Several of our Eastern Counties members have expressed a desire, that, as they consider the time is now opportune, efforts should be made to form an Eastern Counties Division. In order to test the feelings of the area, Mr. Pike, Public Library, Great Yarmouth, is quite willing to undertake the preliminary arrangements and asks that all members interested will write to him direct, and as soon as possible, expressing their views on the proposal. Further, will our members who are interested in the suggestion bring it also, where they can, under the notice of assistants who are not yet members of the Association so that they can give expression to their views as well. Mr. Pike will be pleased to hear from every assistant (members and non-members) in the Eastern Counties.

This desire on the part of our East Anglian colleagues is a very healthy sign. We hope to see the division in full swing before long. There are still a number of areas—large library areas too—that show no signs of life from the Association point of view. We have very few members indeed in the East Midland area, despite a determined publicity campaign. No assistant, however industrious, can neglect those opportunities that are afforded of interchanging ideas which occur in districts where professional associations are active. Can we hope to see new life in the West of England and the South Wales areas?

**The Senior Assistant.**—Our members will recollect that in the Divisional reports published in the December "Assistant" attention was called to the attendance of Senior Assistants at Association meetings. This matter deserves, we think, a little more publicity than it gets in the 8 point type portion of our Journal. No little importance attaches to the Senior's ability to get the Juniors to come along to meetings. He should set the example by regular attendance himself for he wields a great influence over the Junior.

**British Drama League.**—We note with gratification that the Carnegie Trustees have made a substantial grant to the League for the establishment of a dramatic library in London for the amateur and professional student of the theatre. A year ago the Trustees enabled the Drama League to purchase plays for distribution among the kindred societies. The use that was made of

this collection indicates a very definite demand for a library of reasonable size devoted entirely to the literature of the theatre. We might do worse than take note of this intention to found a really good library of the drama. How many of our libraries possess reasonably good collections of dramatic literature? Half-a-dozen modern playwrights, a few of the 19th century, and still less of the 18th, a Restoration comedy or two, Shakespeare and a couple of his contemporaries, and we have a dramatic library! On the shelves of a small number of libraries you may find one or two of H. A. Jones and perhaps a set of Wilde. But what of Stephen Phillips, Sydney Grundy, Haddon Chambers, Pinero, Hastings, R. C. Carton, to mention a few. It is fairly easy to place the classics on the shelves, but little attention appears to be paid to the provision of plays which, though not classic, are by no means ephemeral. There are plenty of good plays of the last fifty years which are unrepresented on our shelves and which still have a field in local dramatic circles.

**Detective Novels.**—In the course of a speech at the re-opening of Richmond Library after its conversion to open-access, Lord Cave pleaded guilty to a liking for the detective novel. There, his Lordship stated the curious fact about that type of novel. Into whatever walk of life one probes the majority we find like detective stories. Huxley we believe thoroughly enjoyed them. Many librarians we know do. Why? Is it the innate desire for the "penny dreadful" dressed in the clothes of respectability? We remember a well-known chief librarian some years ago saying that we were all murderers because we loved a good crime novel.

**Leicester.**—From a local paper we gather that a determined attempt is being made by one or two members of the Committee to bring about a re-organisation of the libraries system. There has been no report for twelve years. During the war the majority of the branches were closed and apparently things are as bad as they can be in a town which ought to provide a large and efficient service to minister to its cultural, commercial and technical needs.

**Bournemouth.**—Through the munificence of a member of the Libraries Committee the district of Southbourne has become possessed of a freehold site and building for a branch library. For some time past endeavours have been made to find a suitable site and now the problem has been solved for people of Bournemouth in a very pleasant manner. The only condition is that the building is to be utilised for library purposes.

**The Librarian as Adviser.**—Most of our members have no doubt read the article in the December "Nineteenth Century" on "Books and Public Libraries." It appears to us as one of those half-informed contributions which pre-suppose that no such thing has been done and that they are stating an entirely new viewpoint.

The writer suggests we should be less diffident about offering advice on what to read, but apparently he knows nothing of the amount of work that is daily done in aiding and assisting borrowers. As to the amount of trash handed out—well we do not get enough money to be able to buy much. Further classics to one may be trash to another and *vice versa*. One great point is missed by the writer. He is entirely unaware of the large number of children's libraries where daily the young are being enticed along the road of good literature through thoughtful selection and guidance. This, to-morrow, will provide a public that will look for the best and at the same time be supremely critical of the contents of the library.

Still, there is a great deal of value in the article and it secures publicity for the public library and its work.

"**Knowledge of library technique** is not regarded as an indispensable qualification." So runs the advertisement for the Northamptonshire County Librarianship. The advertisement bears the heading, Appointment of Librarian, so we gather that it is a librarian that is required. Presumably this is the new order of things. We shall soon see adverts. for Borough Accountants, "Knowledge of accountancy, etc." Building Inspectors, "Knowledge of building, etc." There are many others we can think of equally ridiculous, which accentuate this ludicrous business of thinking of appointing someone to organise a system of libraries who knows nothing about the work.

**Rural Library Conference.**—Our members are, no doubt, familiar, through the Daily Press, with some of the matters which were raised at the Conference. We understand a full and complete report of the proceedings is shortly to be published and we hope that our members will obtain a copy especially as Capt. Wright is addressing the Association on "Co-operation" next March.

**Mr. Jast.**—To the many congratulations that we are sure Mr. Jast will receive, we would offer ours upon his marriage, which takes place on the first day of the New Year, with Miss Williams Murby, of the Ministry of Health. Miss Murby has been actively associated with the social service activities of Manchester, and with the enterprise of the interesting "Society of Arts," the Unnamed Society, which was initiated by Mr. Jast at Manchester. This Unnamed Society has quickened the whole artistic life of the north of England in a subtle and fruitful manner, in drama, music, and the representative arts generally.

Of Mr. Louis Stanley Jast himself it would be superfluous to write for our older members. Younger ones, however, may care to be reminded a little of the man whom we consider to have been, with the possible exception of James Duff Brown, the most constructive personality in municipal librarianship in recent

years. Mr. Jast was educated at King's College in the University of London, received his early training at Halifax, and at a very early age became librarian of Peterborough. It was while at Peterborough that he showed his unusual gifts for librarianship. He was the most successful early champion of the Dewey Classification; he invented model class lists with an original form of thumb index; he came out with James Duff Brown as the champion of the class list. We remember hearing the latter say that in the papers that they wrote jointly Brown provided the wit and Mr. Jast the voice, but we believe this declaration was just another one of Brown's witticisms. His views brought him into the very thick of the fight for open access, which for the ten years from 1895 raged with a virilency which to-day would create the loudest laughter. In those days a man's whole character, his honesty, the way he treated his wife, and his power of telling the truth, depended upon the system of issue he used in his lending library!

It was already with a very considerable reputation that Mr. Jast took up the chief librarianship of Croydon, to which he was appointed in 1898. At Croydon he had a comparatively new building and a fair library income. He saw the possibilities of the place, and in the seventeen years in which he presided over the library system he made it probably the best known municipal library in Europe. He introduced annotated bulletins; perfected the card catalogue; showed Dewey in operation on a larger scale than anywhere else in England; created his own cataloguing code; initiated the photographic survey in connexion with public libraries; established lectures for teachers and for children in secondary schools; invented the card voucher forms which are now used in libraries; devised moveable shelves, book-rests, and secret locking rods for card cabinets; introduced the vertical file into libraries; initiated privilege issues; and, in fact, did more to influence modern organization than any other man of his time.

In 1904 he became Honorary Secretary of the Library Association, and held that position until his appointment to Manchester in 1915. In that capacity he was responsible with Mr. Sayers for the present registration scheme of the Library Association. He visited America twice as the Council's delegate, with very definite results on library work here. He edited *The Library Association Record* for several years.

It would extend this notice beyond what is fit to attempt to describe all Mr. Jast's activities. He has taken part in every movement for the advance of the profession, has been an examiner for the Library Association and the University of London, and is a member of every Committee of importance that deals with

library subjects in any way. The omission of his name from the Public Libraries Committee of the Board of Education has caused a protest to be made practically all over England, as it is believed that no one could have represented public libraries with the authority that he possesses.

As a writer Mr. Jast is stimulating and original. He has found time to write on all phases of library work, and on philosophical and literary subjects. His volume of plays, *The Lover and the Dead Woman*, is an example of his gifts in another direction, showing fancy and poetry, and a singular power of expression.

Since his appointment to Manchester Mr. Jast has merely added to his laurels, and the public libraries there are now becoming amongst the most modern that exist. If only the Mancunians would make up their minds to build their Central Library, we believe it would provide Mr. Jast with the opportunity of his life so far as librarianship is concerned. We hope they will not miss their unique opportunity.

The goodwill and cordial regards of all librarians of whatever rank will go to Mr. Jast in his new life.

---

### A KNOWLEDGE OF BOOKS.<sup>1</sup>

By G. F. VALE, F.L.A., *Bethnal Green Public Library.*

An eminent librarian once said at a certain Library Association Conference, it was remarkable that although librarians discussed many things in relation to books, such as their cataloguing, classification, binding, etc., yet they never discussed the *contents* of books. It must be admitted that this is a surprising assertion, and it would appear to be somewhat of an exaggeration; yet the librarian who made this statement is amongst the foremost of the British librarians of to-day, and I feel sure that speaking as he was from actual experience, there must be a great deal of truth in what he said. How has this position arisen, why is it that librarians in conference do not discuss the contents of books? Have they no knowledge or have they no interest? It has actually been stated that librarians are so busy with the details of administration and the technical side of their work that they are compelled to neglect, what I am sure every one here to-night will agree, is the most important branch of our work—the collection and selection of books. We are undoubtedly concerned overmuch with the technicalities of our craft. The real test of a library system is its collection of books. But I make no excuse here for

---

<sup>1</sup>Read at Rotherhithe, 10th December, 1924.

the librarian who is not up-to-date in the administration of his institution, because it must follow as a natural corollary that the library which is ill-classified and badly catalogued is certain to have an unbalanced and ill-assorted collection of books. Personally, I feel that the real fault lies in the fact that the average librarian attempts too much; the general opinion, I know, is that there is no limit to the activities of a library. Mr. John Ballinger has said that public libraries must of necessity try to meet the reasonable requirements of every section of their readers. They should find their first and most important work in providing for the book wants of people whose student days are over. In the light of this statement, it seems to me that before taking up such work as reading circles, lectures, exhibitions, etc., we must meet the requirements laid before us. I know it will be urged that the main object of all these forms of extension work is to popularise the library, agreed, but what is the use of attracting people to the library, if you haven't got within reason what they may require. I will readily grant to the enthusiasts for these outside activities all that they urge, but I do insist that the basis of our appeal to the public, as librarians, must be the quality of books that we have to offer, more especially with regard to pure literature. Although there are many means by which readers may be drawn to a library, it is by literature alone that we shall hold them. Certainly it is incumbent upon us to supply the needs of, and endeavour to satisfy the student, the commercial man, and the mechanic, but no one of this class needs such books for a life time. The chances are, with this class of borrower, that when they have got the information required, or when efficiency has been obtained in their particular subject, the reader is lost to the library. This should not be, it is the duty of the librarian to see that these borrowers are gradually introduced to the great books of the world's literature, so that when they have finished their own specialised subject they do not leave us, but form part of that select class known, for the want of a better term, as real readers. This brings us back to our subject, how can this be accomplished if the librarian does not possess a sound knowledge of the contents of books. It is practically a certainty that some one will ask, what is a great book, what are the books that really matter? I am afraid that this is much too big a question to be discussed to-night, and I certainly would not attempt to define a great book—my only answer is to quote Mr. G. K. Chesterton, who, when asked to describe an elephant, said, "I cannot describe an elephant, but I know one when I see it." On a question of this kind, we, as assistants, cannot alienate ourselves from the librarian. It is we who come chiefly into contact with the borrower and therefore, granted that the librarian selects the books, it is our duty to see that the public get not only what they want, but

to be able to persuade the public to take something which they don't want.

How are we then to fit ourselves for this, the most important part of our calling. To select books for those whose knowledge of literature is practically negligible, and to endeavour to create in them a standard of literary taste is a great responsibility, and a task that should not be entered upon lightly. Great discrimination must be used, especially by the assistant who is new to the work. It is impossible to estimate the harm that can be done by introducing a good book to an immature reader. Unfortunately, owing to the very small remuneration that is still general in our profession, a large proportion of what is known as counter work is left to the junior assistant. And so obscure is the real importance of our work that I have often heard Senior Assistants scorn the suggestion that they should perform a duty, in their opinion so menial, as that of assisting in the issuing of books. Knowledge of the types of borrower comes with experience and in time it becomes less difficult to distinguish between the waster, the real reader, and the aimless wanderer. In our estimate of readers, we must particularly guard against superficial appearances. The poorest can and do appreciate the world's masterpieces as also often the wealthiest read that which is only dross. In this work of encouraging the reading of good books there are many disappointments and consequently many setbacks.

But do not be too easily discouraged, think of the glorious possibilities which may crown your efforts. It may be, in fact it is almost a certainty, that any one of us here to-night will be privileged to bring to the notice of a child, and I hope to many children, some such book as "Alice in Wonderland" or "Robinson Crusoe." One cannot estimate the amount of joy that such books can bring into the lives of those to whom the first time such classics as these are introduced.

Speaking to a body of librarians Mr. St. John Ervine once said he saw no harm in the penny dreadful, provided that at the psychological moment when a boy tired of "The Big Budget" he should be handed such a book as "Treasure Island." So far, so good, but the tragedy of it is that there is a vast class of people who through no fault of their own haven't the mentality to appreciate anything more than the penny dreadful. They are the Peter Pans of our readers—they never grow up. However, having got to your "Treasure Island" stage—what next? It is very easy for a public man to throw out these suggestions in a light, airy manner, but it falls to our lot to have to work out the idea. Each one of us will instinctively, with experience, form his own campaign as to how to discover, and when found, encourage the real

reader. The range of our choice in literature is enormous, as is also the extent of the reader's taste. It is a good plan to try your likely reader after he has successfully passed the "Treasure Island" stage with other well-known classics. There is no need to quote titles here, their name is legion. For instance, a reviewer speaking of "Moby Dick" some little time ago said that the book appears to have been a wonder treasured as a sort of secret for years by some select readers who had chanced upon it. They said little about it. We gather they had been in the habit of hinting the book to friends they could trust, so that "Moby Dick" became a sort of cunning test by which the genuineness of another man's response to literature could be proved. No doubt most of us here to-night have their own particular selection of books of this type by which can be applied the acid test. Having touched on this side of the question, what of the knowledge of literature and books necessary in order to make any attempt at such a task. Obviously a very deep knowledge of literature is required, a knowledge that will give breadth and depth of vision with broad sympathies. In our endeavours to obtain this information, so long as we are in the profession, or maintain an interest in literature, we shall never be, nor ever want to be finished; for all of us there will always be something to learn, and some scraps of information worth picking up.

What I want to impress upon you to-night is that practically everyone who uses a public library, is in a sense, a specialist in their own particular subject. For instance, even a reader of Wild West stories and the dear old lady who reads Mrs. Henry Wood, know more about their particular authors than the librarian.

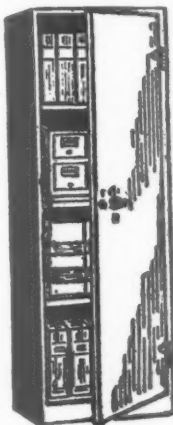
The oft repeated phrase "of the making of many books there is no end" is perfectly true, and our problem is *how the average assistant is to obtain that quality of awareness of books, both new and old, that is so essential in dealing with the general public.* To my mind nothing is worse than the blank look which comes over the face of an assistant when he is asked for a book of which he has no knowledge. The blank look is so obvious that it is discouraging to the reader and does immeasurable harm to the profession. How is this knowledge of the contents of books to be obtained? I am afraid I cannot advise you that there are any short cuts, there is no quick road to success, only by hard work with a natural enthusiasm and taste for books can this knowledge be had. With regard to current literature, practically our only guide is in the reviews, and these must be followed assiduously and tirelessly. There are actually, to my knowledge, assistants who never regularly read reviews. Their excuse is probably that as they are not called upon to assist in the selection of books, there is no need for them to interest themselves in this subject. Such a



# Libraco STEEL CUPBOARDS

**Neither Burn nor Rust.**

Libraco Steel Cupboards will protect your stationary registers, pamphlets and important papers from damage and loss. They resist fire and damp, and the attacks of rodents and vermin. They will withstand climatic changes and neither warp nor shrink. Light and portable, yet strong and rigid, Libraco cupboards are made from 18 Gauge Steel. Doors are doubly re-inforced and fitted with English three-lever locks and keys.



No. 3.

STOVE ENAMELLED  
OLIVE GREEN.

*All Cupboards are 6' 0" high.*

## PRICES

No. 1.  
13' x 13'

**£3**

No. 2.  
18' x 18'

**£4 10 s.**

No. 3.  
24' x 18'

**£6**

No. 4.  
28' x 18'

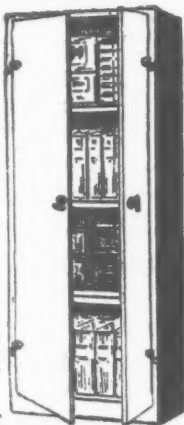
**£7**

No. 7.  
36' x 18'

**£9**

PACKING FREE.

CARRIAGE PAID IN GREAT  
BRITAIN.



No. 4.

*Illustrated Lists of Steel Equipment, Library Furniture, "Vernier" Shelving, &c., post free.*

## LATEST LIBRACO BOOKLETS.

"Planning & Equipping the Open Access Library."

An interesting illustrated exposition, with plans, &c.

"Library Registers."

Describing methods of Stock-keeping, Registration of Borrowers, &c.

POST FREE ON APPLICATION.

**LIBRACO**  
LIMITED  
**EQUIPMENT FOR LIBRARIES**  
**62, Cannon St., LONDON**  
TELEPHONE 6599 CITY  
Managing Director - - W. W. FORTUNE.

## **P. G. CHAPMAN & Co.**

Holders of London C.G. Honours.

:: :: ALL LEATHERS USED :: ::  
GUARANTEED FREE FROM ACID.

## **LIBRARY BINDERS**

REPAIRING WORK A SPECIALITY.  
:: BEST MATERIALS ONLY. ::  
PUBLIC LIBRARY CONTRACTORS.

**P. G. CHAPMAN & CO.,**

83, Great Saffron Hill, London, E.C. 1.

Privileges to Members  
of the "A.A.L."

TRADING FACILITIES.

### **COUPON.**

### **An Offer Worth Accepting**

Messrs. KENDAL & DENT, 106, Cheapside, London, are prepared to send a catalogue of their famous Watches, Clocks, Jewellery, Table Cutlery, and other Household requisites to Members free of charge on request.

Please send me, Free and Post free, Catalogue and Member's  
"Privilege Ticket" for Wholesale Trading.

NAME (in full) .....

ADDRESS (official) .....

.....  
This Coupon should be sent to KENDAL & DENT, in envelope,  
½d. stamp.

# G. BLUNT & SONS,

302, KILBURN LANE,  
LONDON, W. 9.

Tel. No.: WILLESDEN 83.

ESTABLISHED  
OVER FORTY  
YEARS.

EVERY LEAF  
GUARDED

THE 'IDEAL' BINDING

INSTEAD OF  
OVERSEWING

The  
Leading  
London  
Public Library  
Contractors.

EXPERTS IN ALL BRANCHES  
OF PUBLIC LIBRARY BINDING.

EVERY PROCESS CARRIED OUT BY HIGHLY  
TRAINED STAFF OF SPECIALIST WORKERS.

Special Leading Line — OUR 'IDEAL' NIGER MOROCCO BINDING.

## DAVID H. BOND

407, Bank Chambers  
(Opposite Patent Office),  
Chancery Lane,  
London, W.C. 1.

*Subscription Agent for  
American Magazines  
and Periodicals.*

Quotations sent on request.  
Subscriptions carefully attended to.

Agent for the "Library Journal"  
and "Public Libraries."

## OFFICERS OF THE A.A.L.

*President* : Mr. I. Briggs, Central  
Library, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

*Vice-President* : Mr. H. A.  
Sharp, Central Library, Croydon.

*Hon. Secretary* : Mr. G. P. Jones,  
B.A., Public Library, Bancroft  
Road, E.1.

*Hon. Treasurer* : Mr. R.  
Cooper, Central Library,  
Lavender Hill, S.W.11.

*Hon. Librarian* : Mrs. Hazard,  
Central Library, Islington, N.

**The Woolston Book Co.**

**LIMITED**

**NOTTINGHAM**

---

**The Largest and most  
Up-to-date House for**

**LIBRARY SUPPLIES**

**IN**

**The United Kingdom**

---

**Contractors to PUBLIC LIBRARIES  
EDUCATION COMMITTEES - etc.**

limited outlook cannot be too strongly condemned, and I would advise every assistant here to-night, no matter what their duties are, or what position they hold on the staff, not to neglect, what to my mind is so important, the reading of book reviews. Look out for publishers' announcements, read booksellers' catalogues and exhaust every possible channel of information about books, in order that you may fit yourselves for your profession. If you definitely decide to read at least one good literary periodical a week, you will be surprised at the amount of knowledge that can be obtained, and more than surprised at the use that can be made of such knowledge. For instance we have recently read that the great City of Glasgow has banned from its libraries Aldous Huxley's "Antic Hay," no doubt since this forced advertisement many of you have now read this remarkable book, but at the time of its withdrawal from the Glasgow libraries, how many of you were in a position to give an informative opinion on the question. There may be some here to-night who have never heard of the banning of this book, there may be some who have never even heard of the book itself. If that is so it only emphasises my point, how necessary it is for assistants to obtain this awareness with regard to books. Again what would you say of a library that has not yet in circulation a copy of what is unquestionably the greatest novel written this year, and perhaps for may a year—Forster's "A Passage to India," and I am informed that there is even a library system in London to-day that has not a single novel by D. H. Lawrence.

Touching on this question of awareness, I recently asked an assistant in charge of one of the largest children's libraries in the country, whether they had any demand, or whether the children really enjoyed the now famous "Dolittle" books. I make no comment on the blankness of the look, sufficient to say that the assistant hadn't the slightest idea what I was talking about, and furthermore I am prepared to say that I've no doubt that there are a good many of you here to-night who are as equally uninformed. Yet the first of this series, "The story of Doctor Dolittle," was published in England in 1922, and the last one, "Doctor Dolittle's Post Office" was published about two months ago. The story of Doctor Dolittle has been described as the first children's classic since "Alice." Hugh Walpole has said "that there is poetry here, and fantasy, and humour, a little pathos, but above all a number of creations in whose existence everybody must believe, whether they be children of four, or old men of ninety, or prosperous bankers of forty-five." How can assistants expect to be of any real service in helping others when they themselves shew so little interest in their work as to be unaware of such an epoch-making set of books as these.

Such a lack of knowledge might be excused by reason of the fact that the books in question, although of great merit, are little known. But what of the assistant whose face was equally blank when asked for "The School for Scandal," and then inquired of the reader whether he could tell her the author. Instances such as these, we must confess with shame, might be quoted in unlimited numbers as most of you who have had any long experience in the profession know only too well.

Unfortunately, the assistant endeavouring to form an opinion on the representation of modern literature in our public libraries, will get very little help from actual practice. Opinions differ so fundamentally on this question that it would almost seem that it is a question of taste and temperament, rather than fact. Personally I agree with Mr. L. Stanley Jast, who, not so long ago, said "that the library should represent the best of the intellectual movement of its own time; and in order to achieve that, there should be books of temporary value of the moment. Then, if found necessary, those books could be scrapped. The public library should be a stream of literature." Such books as Daisy Ashford's "Young Visitors," David Garnett's "Lady into Fox," and "Man in the Zoo," Romer Wilson's "Death of Society," Sinclair Lewis's "Main Street," Dame Ethel Smyth's "Impressions," and even Mrs. Asquith's notorious "Autobiography," I suggest come under this category, and whatever the verdict is, or ultimately will be, on these books, any library that has not obtained them, has, to my mind, failed to meet its obligations. It seems to me that any reader has a reasonable right to expect to obtain such books from his local library. Against this view, however, I heard only quite recently, a librarian of a library not so many miles from here, say that he was buying no new books at present and had not bought any for some time as there was nothing worth buying. It seems almost incredible that any man holding a responsible position should make such a statement, when it is remembered that such books as W. H. Hudson's "Book of a Naturalist," Shaw's "Back to Methuselah" and St. Joan," Strachey's "Queen Victoria," Bennett's "Riceyman Steps," Eileen Power's "Medieval People," and Flecker's "Hassan," to mention a few at random, have all been published within the last four years, to say nothing of the stream of standard works that is constantly flowing from the presses of the Oxford, Cambridge and London Universities, and other well-known publishers.

With regard to that difficult question—what do the public actually read?—I think more rubbish is written than on any other aspect of the realm of books. With the press in recent years, it has almost reached the proportions in popularity of the sea-serpent or the giant gooseberry as a means of filling up a column

during the dog-days. Such headings as "What do sailors read," "What working girls read," "Do schoolboys read the classics," are familiar to all. Why a sailor is supposed to want to read anything different from a soldier or anybody else, I have never been able to fathom. Or why, when a sailor has been found to have read Plato's "Republic," everybody appears to be astounded, has always puzzled me. A lecturer in a London County Council Women's Evening Institute was agreeably surprised to find on taking a ballot that Dickens was easily first in popularity, whilst Ethel M. Dell was a poor second. Against this, however, "The Basket of Flowers" and "Mixed Pickles" were voted for and yet the average age of the girls was fifteen years. It seems to me that the quality of the reading habit largely depends upon the accessibility to, and a knowledge of, books. And it is these points that I have endeavoured to emphasise this evening; that the public should have access to the best of ancient and modern literature, and that we should fit ourselves so that we can guide them in their selections. One of the most depressing features of modern life is the general public's absolute ignorance and lack of taste in literature. It should therefore be our one aim to endeavour to remove this grave defect.

Having got a general idea of your subject, I would strongly recommend, especially to the Juniors, such books as Arnold Bennett's "Literary Taste," and Conan Doyle's "Through the magic door." Such books as these give one an idea of the value of the usually accepted masterpieces, and help you to place them in their true proportions.

At this point the importance of the study of bibliography cannot be over estimated. Remember that for the public librarian—a first edition is of no use unless it is the best edition. So many books have been spoilt in the process of translation, emendation and editing that special care must always be taken to see that where a book is published by many firms, only the best edition is obtained. For instance, many editions of "Les Misérables" published are nothing like the original, whilst that published by the Walter Scott Publishing Co. is an admirable edition. On the other hand this firm's edition of Tolstoi's works is not considered to be so accurate as that of the Oxford University Press.

Expurgated editions should invariably be avoided. There are a few publishers who seem to be particularly bad offenders in this respect, in the preface of a certain edition of Richardson's "Clarissa Harlowe," Mrs. Harriet Ward says that it was her chief aim to remove by expunging some scenes and passages that can well be spared." This is certainly not a suitable edition for a public library; it is an insult to the reader's intelligence. Similarly with an edition of Sterne's "Tristram Shandy,"

published by the same firm, the editor says "that in sweeping the unseemly pages which are only a tenth part of the whole out of this edition of the book, many shrewd turns of wit have been lost, but there is less disturbed enjoyment of the nine-tenths that remain." Such books are misleading, and librarians that issue them are incurring grave responsibilities. With regard to the Classics there are generally recognised standard editions, and there are many bibliographies such as Sonnenschein's and Nelson's to help you in your selection. The subject which I have had the temerity to tackle this evening is so vast that it is only possible in such a paper as this to touch lightly on the fringe. It is so easy to step off on to the side tracks, that it is almost impossible to keep to the main theme, but what I do want to emphasise is, and I will repeat what I have already said before this evening, *that our problem is how the average assistant is to obtain that quality of awareness of books, both new and old, that is so essential in dealing with the general public.*

---

### THE JUNIOR ASSISTANT.<sup>1</sup>

By JOHN V. SUMMERFIELD, Portsmouth Public Libraries.

In glancing through some old numbers of our professional periodicals I discovered that the Junior Assistant was a fairly frequent subject of papers and discussions, usually contributed by assistants whose claim to the prefix "Junior" was no longer valid. It occurred to me that the person best qualified to express the views of a junior assistant on matters which interest the younger members of our profession, was probably a junior assistant himself; this explains the *raison d'être* of my paper.

To the senior members of the profession some of the views expressed may savour of heresy and presumption, and therefore, before proceeding, I crave their indulgence for injudicious youth.

The decision of the Library Association to abolish the Preliminary Examination has caused a great deal of discussion, and in some places, consternation. Despite the fact that the Library Association had given two years' notice to the effect that the Examination would cease this year, it appears that in some cases new assistants have been appointed during the last two years and not made sufficiently aware of the Library Association's intention. Consequently, if these assistants wish to remain in the profession with any prospect of success they are compelled to Matriculate or sit for some similar examination—not an easy thing to do in the

---

<sup>1</sup> Read before the Western Section, S. Coast Division, 5th Nov., 1924.



limited leisure which our work affords for study on the lines required for such examinations. With these assistants we sympathise and hope that some way out of the difficulty will be found.

But it must be remembered that the case of these assistants is an exceptional one. The majority of those assistants who are now bemoaning their fate were fully aware of the Library Association's decision to terminate the Preliminary Examination, and yet failed to take advantage of those held after the Library Association had issued its warning. The much-talked-of status of our profession will never be raised by assistants who have not the energy or who are not sufficiently interested in their careers to pass a test in general knowledge.

It is argued by those opposed to the Library Association's decision that Chief Librarians will have considerable difficulty in obtaining new juniors owing to the more lucrative careers open to those possessing the qualifications now necessary for entry into the library service. If this argument holds good in practice then it seems to me that the difficulty will only be solved by an increase in salaries—a very pleasant solution. Whatever happens, the Library Association will have removed the cause of the adverse remarks regarding the junior's general education which a few years ago were often made in our professional journals. I quote the Library Assistant for October, 1921: "The junior assistant is often encouraged to sit for professional examinations when he cannot write two consecutive sentences of good English, to say nothing of being absolutely ignorant of the most outstanding facts of English Literature"—a rather scathing indictment.

Now that the question of the junior assistant's general education has been practically disposed of, we are justified in devoting more attention to the technical side of it; I mean in a general way, not wholly concerned with examinations. With their increased educational attainments juniors should be permitted to have a more intimate acquaintance with the administration of their libraries.

Take the case of book-selection. In how many libraries are juniors allowed to have any part in the selection of books, outside the narrow limit of offering suggestions? The only training the majority of us receive in this important branch of the librarian's work is in the few months of preparation for the Library Association's examination in Bibliography. Yet an extended training on more practical lines could be easily given without much interference with the routine of the library.

Either of the methods suggested by Mr. Walker in his excellent article on "Methods of Book-Selection," published in a recent number of the Library Association Record would accomplish this. Briefly the methods are—giving each assistant a

certain number of the review periodicals from which to obtain suggestions for submission to the Chief, or perhaps the better method of making each assistant responsible for providing suggestions for additions of books in one particular class or subject.

Despite the extent to which the public library movement has helped in the cultivation of the public's literary taste it would still be a dangerous policy to apply the Shavian maxim of "giving the public not what they want, but what they ought to want and don't" to the selection of books. It follows that one of the essentials of successful book-selection is personal contact with the library's readers to discover what they *do* want. The junior spends at least two-thirds of his working hours either attending to the counter or shelving books; both duties offer opportunities of hearing or overhearing (whichever you prefer) the opinions expressed by readers on various sections of the library's stock. Again, it must be remembered that many readers prefer to offer suggestions verbally to assistants; they dislike the formality of the suggestion-slip—in a phrase "they can't be bothered." The suggestions received in these various ways can be borne in mind when the junior is preparing his book-list.

Similar assistance could be given to juniors preparing for examinations in Cataloguing and Classification. The whole question of the efficient classifying and cataloguing of books for public library purposes depends upon the ability of the assistant responsible to make correct decisions; in the one case deciding the classification of the book so that it fits into the logical arrangement of the scheme, and in the other case deciding the necessary subject-heading for a concise description of the book's contents. To make these decisions effectively practical experience is as essential as theoretical knowledge.

Practical tuition in both subjects could be given without much difficulty; a half-an-hour a week might be set aside for the purpose. A few books, including some which are likely to present difficulties, could be chosen, and classified by a senior in the presence of juniors preparing for the examination. He can explain the reasons for his decision, and invite questions. In the case of cataloguing, the subject headings can be decided by the senior after he has given an opportunity for discussion. The slips can then be made out by the juniors and finally the whole of the work supervised by the Senior.

If the methods indicated above are followed out the practical training in book-selection, classification and cataloguing so received will be of value when the junior is promoted to a more responsible position. Apart from that, book-shelving and the various mechanical duties which it falls to our lot to perform are apt to prove a trifle monotonous—admitted that such duties are

absolutely necessary and that somebody has to carry them out—but the fact remains that they are responsible for taking away some of our enthusiasm for the profession. The other interests that I have suggested would help to prevent this and afford some relaxation from the sameness of routine. Might I also add that a monthly redistribution of duties would be another means of attaining the same end, besides having the added advantage of giving every assistant some experience of each routine duty.

Before leaving the rather unpleasant topic of examinations, I should like to draw attention to another point—namely, the fees required by the Library Association for their Correspondence Courses and Examinations. The assistants who sit for the Library Association's examinations are mainly juniors—the Library Association's fees appear to be based upon the salaries of seniors. Consider those assistants who are not in the fortunate position of being able to obtain tuition from a benevolent chief or an interested senior and who are not members of the Midland or North Western Divisions of the Association and are thus prevented from taking advantage of the educational facilities which these Divisions offer. Apart from study of a purely private nature, which has obvious disadvantages, there remains to these assistants the alternative of the Library Association's Correspondence Courses—and a very expensive alternative. Nobody disputes the excellence of these classes but it is difficult to see the reason for such an increase in their cost.

When the Council of our Association arranged its Correspondence Course for the Preliminary Examination we hoped that the experiment would prove successful and that the scheme would be extended to cover the other subjects of the Library Association's Examination Syllabus. With the absence of any announcement to the contrary we assume that our hopes have not been realised; but it does not follow that the venture has been definitely abandoned. There is no doubt that if classes could be arranged at a more reasonable fee than that required by the Library Association they would receive a great deal of support from members who are outside the area served by the Midland and North Western Divisions. In the last Annual Report of the Association it was stated that the course of lessons held for the Preliminary Examination was responsible for inducing twenty of those who wished to take advantage of that venture to become members of the Association. I think this proves that the provision of further educational facilities by the Association would be reflected in a large increase in its membership.

It is difficult to advance any reasons to justify those assistants, especially juniors, who still remain outside our Association. If their plea is the selfish one of "What can I get out of it?" then it

should be easy to convince them, if they are willing to be convinced, that the Association can do something for them. It is capable of rendering greater service to assistants in the matter of educational facilities than the Library Association is capable of rendering; it enables assistants to meet to discuss professional matters, exchange ideas and obtain a broadened outlook upon their work. When they realise that the Association exists for the betterment of the profession as a whole—and, as a natural corollary, their own ultimate good—common-sense alone will compel them to join us.

In my short but very pleasant experience of library work, I have been impressed by the general spirit of enthusiasm and *esprit de corps* which seem to prevail amongst assistants generally. Speaking of our own Division, geographical difficulties have in the past militated against very large attendances at its meetings. With its reorganisation these difficulties have to some extent been overcome; time alone will prove the success or otherwise of the experiment. We cannot hope to emulate the example of the larger Divisions of the Association either in social activities or largely attended gatherings; in spite of the limitations imposed on us the spirit of association is continually evident, the thought that we are an active part of the larger movement striving for the furtherance of professional ideals—professional, but not, for that reason, egotistic.

In concluding, the thought occurs to me that the title of my paper is somewhat misleading, especially to those who expected something approaching a character study of the Junior Assistant. To the former I offer my apologies together with the hope that my endeavour to present some personal views (I dare not say the views of junior assistants generally) on matters of current professional interest, may afford some slight compensation for their disappointment.

---

## REVIEW.

**Norwich Public Libraries.** Music and Musical Literature: an annotated and classified catalogue of music and works on music and musicians in the Norwich Public Libraries. With a foreword by Sir Walford Davies. 60 pp. 1924. Norwich: Public Libraries Committee. Price 6d.

An excellently produced catalogue, the contents of which indicate that Norwich possesses a wide and catholic collection of music and musical literature. Two omissions occur to us. Neither of Dr. Fellowes' valuable series of the English Madrigal School and the Lutenist School of Song Writers appear though the volume by the same author on the English Madrigal Composers does.

Sir Walford Davies hopes regarding a gramophone sound-proof room we cannot enthuse over. Such things appear to us to be outside the province of the public library.

## LIBRARIANSHIP AS A CAREER FOR WOMEN.<sup>1</sup>

By Miss W. M. THORNE, St. Bride Institute.

Librarianship is not the only career, which, in its infant stages provided employment solely for men. As a matter of fact it seems to be one of the peculiarities of the learned professions in their early years. Architecture, the Law, and the Medical Profession, to name a few that come to my mind, consisted of men only until quite recent days, and when women did begin to creep in, there was, and still is, much prejudice against them. There are very few people who think a woman doctor is as clever as a man, but time will eliminate these opinions, and people will, we hope, have as much confidence in the judgment of the one as the other.

But why *did* the men monopolise the professions? It was through ignorance, in the first instance on the part of our forefathers. They sent their sons to school, but to them it did not seem to matter whether their daughters could read or write, so long as they could do beautiful embroidery and cook a good meal, which arts they learnt, presumably, from their mothers.

When the Education Act of 1870 came into force, however, this state of affairs was speedily improved, and from thenceforward, the positions held by women have gradually become more and more important, until *now*, we are well on the way to being recognised as the equals of men in brain power, if not in physical strength. It was the Great War that gave women their opportunity, and I think no one, however unwilling he was to admit the capabilities of women, would say that they did not play their part and prove their worth. It opened up new spheres of employment, and some battles against prejudice having been won, we will take care not to have the fruits of their victories snatched away.

In the Library profession, girls started as junior assistants only. The position was taken with the sole idea of "getting a job," not with the thought of training as a Librarian.

Gradually, however, more responsible posts were given to the extra intelligent, and the number of women employed in Public Libraries increased. Slowly but surely a new vista opened up. The idea of women borough librarians gradually percolated into the minds of existing chiefs, and assistants began to look forward to the time when women should occupy as many of the seats of the mighty as men.

Now, however, very few women enter the profession without the idea of taking it up as a career. A matriculation certificate or its equivalent is essential, and a University Degree is desirable

---

<sup>1</sup>Read before Junior Section at Rotherhithe, Dec. 10th, 1924.

for many reasons, although the years spent in obtaining it are those which are most profitable for getting a practical experience of Library Routine. The University Course in Librarianship has much the same disadvantages as a degree course—the practical experience is lacking, though in the latter case, of course, there is a good theoretical knowledge. The course for part-time students does not seem to be working out as well as might be hoped, but the University Authorities have asked for information regarding the most convenient time for assistants, with a view, I believe, of trying to make the times of the lectures more suitable.

In one department of the Libraries, women already hold sway. They are installed in nearly every system which has a Children's Section of any pretensions. It is the natural place for women Librarians, although some are much more fitted for the position than others. The mother of a child almost always understands its mind better than the father and something of the same intuition is present in every woman to a greater or smaller degree. A woman who takes up a position as Children's Librarian must be in love with her job. She must go round and help the little ones choose their books, and recommend to them the better authors. She must be friendly enough to invite their confidence, but must never lose her dignity, or the Library would soon be turned into a bear garden. Yes, a Children's Librarian must be able to do all these things—or else fail to achieve success in her calling.

I would next ask you to consider the question, "Will Librarianship ever become a profession for women only?"

*(To be continued).*

## THE DIVISIONS.

### NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

The second meeting of the session was held at the Liverpool Library, Lyceum, Liverpool, on Wednesday, November 26th. Members and friends, to the number of 60, representing the libraries of Birkenhead, Bolton, Bootle, Cheshire, Liverpool, Manchester, Oldham, Runcorn, Stockport, Wallasey, Waterloo, etc., were present.

Through the kind permission of Mr. G. T. Shaw (Chief Librarian, Liverpool), the excellent collection of Liverpool Cathedral photographs, and an Exhibition of books and engravings on the Cathedrals of Europe, arranged in the Hornby Library, were inspected. This was followed by a visit to the Liverpool Cathedral, by kind invitation of Canon W. Thompson Elliot, Sub-Dean of the Cathedral, which proved that, excellent though the photographs were, they could not convey that sense of majesty and awe which was impressed upon each of the visitors by this personal inspection. Under Canon Elliot's guidance and through his excellent descriptions this unfinished, but even now lordly structure, was admired. The building certainly has proved, to use Canon Elliot's words, "that the 20th century craftsman is the equal, at least, of the craftsman of the Mediaeval Age."

The party then visited the Toxteth Branch Library. This Branch is an example of the "converted" library and showed that although built for the "closed" system this did not prove to be an unsurmountable obstacle for "open access" working.

Our wanderings were temporarily suspended and the Liverpool Branch were the hosts at tea, which was provided at the Yamen Café, and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The visitors' thanks were suitably conveyed by Mr. H. Hamer (Bolton).

A meeting of the Council preceded the general meeting, the Divisional President (Mr. G. Axon) was in the Chair. It was decided that the Correspondence courses instituted last winter should be carried on this year. Any information respecting these courses should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary.

The evening meeting was held in the Liverpool Library, Lyceum, and thus the Division had the unique experience of having inspected the youngest Cathedral in the world and the oldest proprietary library in Europe, in one afternoon. The Divisional President was in the Chair. Mr. E. O. Pritchard (Chairman of the Liverpool Library, Lyceum, Committee) welcomed the Division, and in the course of his very interesting remarks gave an outline of the history of this old established library. Founded in 1758 as a small society for literary criticism it has, after several changes of residence, become a force in the literary life of the city. Mr. M. Jackson Wrigley (Librarian, Liverpool Library, Lyceum), was then called upon to give his paper on "Poetry of to-day."

At the outset the speaker expressed his opinion that literature was becoming too cheap, that it was losing some of its prestige, because commerce, politics, and sociology were dominating the minds of the classes who previously had had poetic tastes. A knowledge of literature is now an accomplishment, not a passion.

Continuing Mr. Wrigley defined the various constituents of true poetry—rime, rhythm and metre—and also the qualities that are to be expected in a true poet—sincerity, personality and style—and explained how these elements express themselves in the poet's work. Applying these precepts to the poetry of to-day the speaker remarked that if the modern poet is to be an interpreter of the time in which he lives he must be able to interpret movement, especially that of the hidden forces which are moving society. Human emotion could not be found in more direct and simple expression than in Mr. Masfield's work, especially his "The Everlasting Mercy" and "The Widow of the Bye-Street." As a return to the Hellenic conception of beauty Mr. Drinkwater's portrait of Abraham Lincoln as "the lord of his event" was cited. As a contrast to some of the present day popular novelists, in their use of language, the speaker drew attention to such masters as Kipling, Hardy, Service, De la Mare, Francis Thompson, W. B. Yeats and others.

Before concluding Mr. Wrigley dealt with Futurist poetry; which he described as a revolt against the idea that the present is to be ruled by the traditional codes of the past. The speakers in the discussion following the paper included Mr. Robinson and Mr. Cochrane.

Hearty votes of thanks to the speaker, for his excellent paper, and to the Chairman and Committee of the Liverpool Library, Lyceum, for their kind permission in allowing the Division to meet in the library and also for their hospitality in providing refreshments at the close of the meeting were moved by the President and seconded by Mr. Cochrane.

WILLIAM THRELFALL,

Hon. Sec.

### SOUTH COAST DIVISION.—EASTERN SECTION.

The Winter Meeting of the Eastern Section of the South Coast Division will be held at the Hove Public Library, on Wednesday, January 21st, 1925.

The programme is as follows:—

5 p.m.: Tea by kind invitation of the Chief Librarian, Mr. Lister, and the Hove Staff.

5.45 p.m.: Committee Meeting.

6.30 p.m.: General Meeting, when a paper will be read by Miss Talmey, of the Hove Public Library, entitled "The Importance and Value of Juvenile Libraries."

Will all those intending to be present kindly notify the undersigned not later than Friday, January 16th.

GRACE L. DEAN,  
Hon. Secretary.

### NEW MEMBERS.

**Associate:** A. B. Anderson (Battersea).

**N.W. Division: Members:** Misses D. McLardy, B. K. Hannaford, L. M. Spink, E. R. Haynes, Messrs. E. Ogden, B.A., W. Blease, S. Horrocks (Manchester); Miss G. K. de la C. C. Madden (Stockport); Miss I. C. Fearnley (Birkenhead).

Will all Divisional Secretaries please send the names of all new members, which require formal election by the Council, **direct** to the Hon. Secretary, Public Library, Bancroft Road, Mile End, E.1.

### APPOINTMENTS.

Cole, F. C. P., F.L.A., Borough Librarian, Huddersfield, to be Borough Librarian, Plymouth. Salary £500.

\*Hazard, Mrs. G., Cataloguer, Islington Public Libraries, to be Cataloguer, Croydon Public Libraries. Salary £250.

The other selected candidates were:

\*P. W. Bennett (Croydon), \*A. R. Williams (Birmingham), A. L. Carver (Swindon). Mr. Carver withdrew before the interview.

Keen, E. A. F., Senior assistant, Wandsworth, to be Chief assistant, Islington.

Pickard, W. B. B., B.A., Senior assistant, Wandsworth, to be County Librarian, Hertfordshire. Salary £300.

\*Riches, Miss P., Assistant, Croydon Public Libraries, to be Senior assistant, St. Marylebone Public Libraries. Salary £175.

Rorke, B. E., Assistant, St. Pancras Public Libraries, to be Senior Assistant, Lambeth Public Libraries. Salary £235 (incl. bonus).

\* Member A.A.L.

### FOR SALE.

**An Ex-Librarian's Tools** for sale at bargain prices. No reasonable offer refused.

Sets. Odd vols. Odd parts: The Library. Old series and New series; L.A. Record; Library Assistant; Library World; L.A. Year Book; L.A. Transactions and Proceedings, etc., etc., etc. Enquiries solicited.

W. GEO. CHAMBERS, 38, Cleave Road, Gillingham, Kent.







## DUSTLESS and HYGIENIC LIBRARIES.

USE

# FLORIGENE

(Florigene  
means  
Floor-  
Hygiene)  
(Regd.)

On all Library, Museum, &c., Floors and Linoleums of every description.

### IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT

One Application of "Florigene" effectively allays the dust and dirt for 2 to 12 months, according to the traffic, not only during each sweeping (without sprinkling of any kind), but also throughout all the intervening periods—  
which is of greater hygienic importance.

"Florigene" is easily applied and saves time, labour and money.

These sanitary, labour-saving and economic benefits are not attained by sweeping-powders or any other method.

Send for particulars and Medical Reports to the Sole Manufacturers—

### THE "DUST-ALLAYER" CO.,

1, Vernon Place, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1.

Contractors to Admiralty, War Office, H.M. Office of Works,  
Colonial Governments, L.C.C., etc.

Established over 20 Years.

## The Bedford Binding.

OUR BINDING for Public Libraries is acknowledged to be  
the best.

OUR METHOD is NOT one of uniformity of treatment.

OUR PROCESS for strengthening the broken folds of sections  
is the latest and improved style without over-  
sewing.

OUR WORK AND MATERIALS are essentially  
the best.

## THE BEDFORD BINDERY,

19, CRAWFORD PLACE, EDGWARE ROAD  
LONDON, W.

1,000,000 vols.  
in stock

# BOOKS

on every  
conceivable subject

Second-hand, New & "As New" Copies at Lowest Prices

Sent on approval. Catalogues (free) on application.

Some of our Departments:—Fiction, Technical and Scientific, Commercial, Law  
and Accountancy, Social Reform and Political Science, Archeology and Art,  
Music and Drama, Literature and Encyclopedias, Rare Books and First Editions,  
French, German, Spanish and Italian Books.

SPECIAL TERMS TO LIBRARIES.

BOOKS PURCHASED OR EXCHANGED.

W. & G. FOYLE, Ltd., 121-125, Charing Cross Road

Telegrams: Foylebra, Oz, London.

LONDON, W.C.2

## ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS SERIES.

- No. 1. The Grammar of Classification. By W. C. BERWICK SAYERS, F.L.A. (Hons.), Chief Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries. **Price six-pence.**
- No. 2. Libraries in Rural Districts. By HARRY FARR, Chief Librarian, Cardiff Public Libraries. **Out of Print.**
- No. 3. The Development of Notation in Classification. By H. RUTHERFORD PURNELL, Librarian of the Public Library of South Australia. Formerly Honorary Editor of "The Library Assistant." **Out of Print.**
- No. 4. L.A.A. Report on the Hours, Salaries, Training, and Conditions of Service of Assistants in British Municipal Libraries. **Out of Print.**
- No. 5. Ideals : Old and New. An Address to Young Librarians. By E. WYNDHAM HULME, B.A. **Price six-pence.**
- No. 6. The Library Committee : Its Character and Work. By W. C. BERWICK SAYERS, F.L.A. (Hons.), Chief Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries. **Price six-pence.**
- No. 7. First Steps in Library Routine. By WILLIAM BENSON THORNE. **Price six-pence.**
- No. 8. First Steps in Library Cataloguing. By WILLIAM BENSON THORNE. **Price six-pence.**
- No. 9. First Steps in Annotation in Catalogues. By W. C. BERWICK SAYERS, F.L.A. (Hons.), Chief Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries. **Price six-pence.**

To be obtained from W. B. Thorne, Bromley Library, Brunswick Road, Poplar, E. 14. **Cost, plus the postage (one half-penny each, and proportionately for more than one copy), should accompany all orders.**

---

## To Librarians and Assistants in Charge.

**Please send us your Lists of Wants.**

We hold one of the largest stocks in the kingdom of Second-hand FICTION and JUVENILES (15,000 different titles), and in making our reports we give full particulars of the edition and condition of every book offered.

### OUR SPECIALITY—

**"Out of print" Books at Reasonable Prices.**

**J. PRESTON & Co., Public Library Booksellers,**

**77, CLAPHAM PARK ROAD, LONDON, S.W.**

**'Phone No.: Brixton 1843.**

**H. R. GRUBB, LTD.,  
Printers,  
CROYDON.**

